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Pope & Popery

THE Midwife Unmask'd: OR, The POPISH DESIGN OF Mrs *Cellier's* MEAL-TUB plainly made known;

Being a Second ANSWER to her Scandalous LIBEL, in short Remarques upon the same.

For the Satisfaction of the PEOPLE, and the Vindication of the Justice of the NATION, and of several Persons of Honour by her most vilely abused.

THere have been so many strange and unparallell'd *Narratives* Published in this Age, and so contradictory one to the other, that many people who judge things by outward appearance onely, know not well how to comprehend the Truth, or what to think of the right and justness of Affairs, clouded with so many several Vizard-Masques that are put upon them. But of all that I have yet seen or met with, this of Mrs *Cellier's* seems to be the boldest and most confident piece of Stuff; strangely hudled, and shuffled together, and in which she rants and scratches like another *Pucel d'Orleans*, or *Joan of Arque*; handling her *Pen* for the Papistical Cause, as the other did her *Lance*; and it is pity she has not likewise the glory of her Martyrdom.

How it has now crept abroad, I cannot tell, having received a Cheque by Authority, as her self acknowledges in her *Postscript*, *p.* 43. which has suppress it till now: But of a suddain their hopes seem to revive, and their endeavours are renewed; and now out comes a new Narrative of the Female Champion of the Cause, all for the same end, to invalidate the PLOT, to make themselves innocent, and to fling all the PLOT and Guilt on the *Presbyterians*. These are the strenuous endeavours of these Papal *Goliaths* not of *Gath*, but of *Jesus*, who having been so often foyled and laid on their backs, fight behind the Buckler of a stout *Virago*, who having been Imprisoned for the *Cause*, and escaped the Law, now with bold and audacious Effronteries publishes her Adventures. It were labour lost to waste much Paper in answering all her impertinent Libels; and those particularly concerned, will no question be able to justifie themselves from her bold accusations: but I shall only make some few Remarks for publick Information.

First I say, Since these sort of people, who have been either Plotters against His Sacred Majesty, the Laws and Religion of the Land, or abettors and well-wishers to the same, and having liv'd to see their PLOT defeated, and some of their Party justly punished for their evil deeds; all their chief endeavours and main ends are now to make some of their innocent Party, and many of the credulous, peaceable, and easily deluded of the adverse Party believe, that there was no PLOT, or at best but one of the *Presbyterians* making and inventing: and one of their great Instruments was this she-Champion, and Midwife, Mrs *Cellier*, a bold and very confident *Bigot* in the *Romish* Cause; and now being cleared by the Law, Hectors and rants at any rate in this her Book, and by this means hopes more than ever to clear the point, and to render herself as great an innocent, as those she uses to bring into the world.

She boldly acknowledges her self a Papist, *p.* 1. though of Protestant Parents; and she became one, because they had been oppress by the Disloyal Party; a good reason:

ſon: and becauſe ſhe never heard any of that Church preach to her any thing of Diſloyalty, therefore none of them ever made or contrived a PLOT againſt the King and Government; another like Argument. But as to the reality of the PLOT, notwithſtanding their many falſe Blinds, there is ſcarce one of any Judgment and Reaſon, but is convinced of it; and to deny it, were to give the Lye to the greateſt Authority on Earth, both the King and People: To the King, in contradicting his ſeveral Proclamations; to the People, in making falſe the ſeveral unanimous Votes of their Repreſentatives in *Parliament*; who have declared it to be an horrid *POPISH PLOT*, not a *Presbyterian* one; and by believing the Judges of the Land to be blind, and all the Courts of Judicature to be ſtrangely miſtaken. And yet theſe people, *Jeſuits* and *Jeſuitical* Inſtruments, boldly inſinuate there is no PLOT; and therefore, as their chiefeſt Card they have to play, they ſo often endeavour to invalidate the Kings Witneſſes, and to make them of no worth: and this is the whole ſcope of this Book of Mrs *Cellier's*, called her *Malice Defeated*, but rather is *Malice Repeated*.

For *p.* 2. ſhe tells us, The chief ſticklers for the PLOT were the Sons of thoſe who acted the principal parts in the laſt Tragedy: and therefore to intail on them the ſins of their Fathers, ſhe doubted the whole, that there was no other PLOT, but what they were going to act over again, that is, to cut off the Kings Head, and to Convert this Land to a *Republick*. If there could be greater malice than this invented, let the world judge; and how far from Truth, daily more and more appears. God be thanked, His Majeſty is not apt to be jealous, but this were enough to ſtir up a ſuſpitious Prince to be Cruel and Tyrannick. But this provokes the Good-womans Charity, and ſhe diligently ſearches the Priſons for the objects thereof; but it ſeems, for all her fine ſtories, 'twas to find out a fit ſubject for her Deſigns and Intrigues; which proving falſe and recreant, having ſerv'd his own turn, if not hers, and who having given her a diveliſh blow on the Mouth, ſtruck out moſt of her Teeth, ſo that ſhe cannot bite; ſhe opens her mouth, and with bloody gums, mumbles and touſes the poor fellow with his heaps of Crimes, ſo that ſhe thinks ſhe has ſufficiently made a fool of the PLOT, and turned it into nothing. But what is all this? *Dangerfield* while her ſervant, though he had committed all theſe Crimes, was ſtanch enough, a very good man, one to be truſted to get in her Husbands Debts, and pay his Scores; introduced to the Company of the Lady *Powis*, and a fit Companion for the Lords in the *Tower*: but after this Inſtrument broke between her Hands, ſee what a Scoundrel ſhe has made of him, for turning Cat in the Pan. What he has been I know not; he ſurely could not have been very good, that was pick'd out of the Goal; and had he been any better, ſhe could never have thought to have put him upon thoſe Employs he ſufficiently ſwore ſhe did; and it ſeems was cunning enough in that Caſe, to invalidate his Teſtimony, as no legal witneſs; however, 'tis but her *nay* againſt his *yea*; he has affirmatively ſworn it, againſt which no Negative can prevail: and whatever the Evidence may be at Common-law, I doubt it will ſignifie ſomething to the Conſciences and Information of many, and that with as much Judgment and Reaſon, as the aſſertion of Mrs *Cellier* in her own defence; in which ſhe is not to be blamed, having dextrouſly played her Cards. And the Narrative of *Willoughby*, what e're he has been, may ſpeak Truth in matter of Fact, as well as Mrs *Cellier's*, and may be juſtly and as ſoon believ'd.

But this is not enough; for although this may do her buſineſs, and ſave her Bacon, yet it will not clear the PLOT, therefore ſhe muſt fall foul alſo of the other Witneſſes, *Bedlow*, *Oates*, and the reſt: never a Barrel better Herring, they are all alike, and muſt be recriminated; therefore ſhe gives you *Bedlows* Character, *p.* 2, & 3. and from Dr. *Oates* his own hand: well, if all this, or moſt of it be falſe, is not Mrs *Cellier* a malicious woman, and thoſe who ſet her a work wicked Inſtruments? but if this were true, all was before, and whilſt imployed in their Service; and what better could be expected for Treaſon and Murther? But ſince, we find not any thing objected againſt them, not only as to the evils of Life and Converſation, but as to the Truth and agreement of their Depoſitions. Thoſe who are alive may anſwer in this reſpect for themſelves, and Mr. *Bedlow's* laſt *Exit* has very much ſtrengthened and confirm'd the Truth of the PLOT, and the wickedneſs of the Plotters. But however, all thoſe Witneſſes Mrs *Cellier* rails againſt, are ſufficiently back'd by others, againſt whom none of them could have ſuch cauſe of ſcandal and reproach; ſo that the foundation of the PLOT ſtands not upon the only props of Dr. *Oates*, *Bedlow*,

low, and *Dangerfield*, but on many more, ſound, and ſtrong enough in their Reputation.

The next thing I obſerve, is, That ſhe not only endeavours to invalidate the Teſtimony of the Kings Witneſſes by Reproach, Scandal, and by bringing their Crimes upon the ſtage, whether true or falſe; but ſhe alſo endeavours, as in *p.* 3. to cauſe them not to be believed by the people, by inſinuating that they were horridly abuſed in priſon. Wracked and Tortured, Boulted and Chained, Starved and Beaten; of which ſhe tells odd ſtories, making ſomething like a Miniſter to be either a promoter, or evidence of the ſame; it looking like one of the Spaniſh Inquiſition, and he the Prieſt Examiner, being tranſlated from the *Inquiſition*-Priſon to *Newgate*. But we are apt to believe they are forged, and to which Captain *Richardſon* is able to give ſatisfaction; Mr. *Prance* the man ſhe would make the world believe to be the perſon Tormented, to extort falſe Evidence, having in his Narrative ſufficiently cleared that ſuſpition, and juſtified to the contrary, whatever Mrs *Cellier* may invent to cauſe the contrary to be thought.

But beſides the Witneſſes, we muſt have others to carry on a Secret PLOT, to hide and cloud the Real one: It is no matter who they are, but it ſeems they are no mean ones, being *Dukes* and *Earls*; for ſuch ſhe brings into *Newgate*, *p.* 4. to beat and abuſe the Examinants, or thoſe committed thither under pretence of the Plot; and in perſon to offer them Gold and Silver, to Confeſs what they did not know. Still Inquiſition-method; Cunning and Tyranny. This Duke and Lord, who ever they were, would not be accounted any great Politicians, to do their buſineſs no better, but to appear in perſon: but all this is ſtill to make the world imagine ſtrange things, and that thoſe Innocents were beaten and tormented, and tempted to confeſs what they never knew of.

This Duke and Earl are *incognito*, and we cannot get knowledge of them: but my Lord of *Shaftesbury* is more beholding to her, for ſhe names him in ſeveral places, with his Servants, and goes about to ſhew his Arts and Policies, to frame a PLOT; and would inſinuate to the people, as if it came, or had a birth out of his Brain, and with his Intrigues with *Bedlow* and *Stroud*, would raiſe up what never was; and that therefore he was making Inſtruments for that purpoſe, by illegal means, feeding them privately with Money, and getting them Pardons, giving them incouragement and aſſiſtance. And thus the wicked woman, though newly eſcaped the laſh of the Law, if ſhe cannot Murther or take away the Life of the Earl of *Shaftesbury*, yet ſtabs his Honour and Reputation. But there is a Statute of *Scandalum Magnatum*, upon which ſhe may chance to be Tryed, and may prove more unfortunate to her, than that of *Edward* the Third, upon which ſhe was laſt Indicted.

But this Woman aſcends in her bold aſperſions; and having gone thus far for the Cauſe, aſſaults the Council and the King himſelf, his Juſtice and his Laws: For *p.* 44. ſhe makes bold to ſay, with a Forhead brazen enough, That though Treaſonable Practices have been Sworn againſt *Dangerfield*, by Juſtice *Foſter*, Juſtice *Harvie*, Mr. *Thomas Hill*, and her ſelf; yet the Gentleman walks abroad undiſturbed, and dayly conſults with his Confederates, how to act new Villanies. Then by and by, *Whenſoever his Majeſty ſhall pleaſe to make it ſafe and honourable to ſpeak Truth, as it hath been gainful and meritorious to do the contrary, there will not want Witneſſes*, &c. I think the like bold and ſcandalous Aſſertion was ſcarce ſo bare-fac'dly owned before; as if his Majeſty and his Privy-Council did encourage Perjury, or that it was a dangerous thing to own or ſpeak the Truth before them.

It is not good dallying thus with Thunder: Methinks, though other perſons could not eſcape the venom of their lying Tongues, yet that Sacred Majeſty, and the Juſtice of a Nation ſhould have been above the reach of their empoyſoned darts: But to what height will not the Zeal, or rather blinde Fury and Rage of their Religion carry them! Thus alſo ſhe terms the Examinations of the Committee of Lords, before whom ſhe was brought, *Trepanning Queſtions*, page 29. to enſnare her: A fit expreſſion for the Peers of the Realm; as if they had ſo little Honour or Honeſty, as to betray the Life of a poor ſilly woman. But ſhe is full of ſuch ſcurrillous abuſes thorough the whole Book; and it were too much labour to trace her throughout.

She may have leave granted her to abuſe perſons of a meaner Rank, when ſhe has ſo boldly ſtruck at thoſe of the higheſt; and I think, of all the Railing ſhe has

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used against Sir *Will. Waller*, which might in some sort be pardoned, he being so active a man against her and her Fellow-Plotters; that which she uses page 23, is very wicked, and highly malicious; which is, that shewing him the Book called *The black Tribunal*, wherein the Tryals of the late King's Judges were set down, told him withal, *That that was the Game he would now be at*; *which* (says she) *he denied after such a manner, as made it visible even to the meanest capacity, that he did not think it a Crime.* Is not this most horrid Judgment, to accuse a man of Treasonable thoughts in her own Breast, and then to pronounce Judgment on him as Guilty? But Sir *William Waller* is of Age to answer for himself, and no doubt knows how to clear himself from such horrid Aspersions.

She pretends to reveal the Mystery of the *Meal-Tub*; but she has made so slight and poor a thing of it, that it is not so much as the true History of it. She thought otherwise of that Discovery, when she wrung her hands and cryed, *She was undone*, at the first finding of that *black* List, which was under the *white* Meal, that gave sufficient Proof and Light of the most abominable *PLOT* that ever was Invented. But Mrs. *Celier* has undergone the Tryal of the Law, and is Acquitted for want of clear Proof against her; but if she proceeds, as she hath begun in this her Book, to forge and publish Lies, and to abuse and defame persons of Honour, and the Justice of the Nation, and to invalidate the King's Evidence, and endeavour to turn the *PLOT* into a *Romance* or Fiction, she may chance at last to finde, she may not always have the good fortune to escape Justice: and it is not to be doubted, notwithstanding the endeavours of these Champions for the Cause, but that ere long the whole Mystery of this Long-depending *PLOT* will be laid open, and that Justice will at last *flow like a stream* without opposition in the Land; And we shall know the guilty Heads, as well as the defiled and wicked Members and Instruments. In the mean time, that such may not bark in the ears of the people so unchequ'd and uncontrould, we have only in few words let you plainly see, *the repeated Malice of Mrs.* Celier's *Malice Defeated*, and what the true end of all the Endeavours of that Party is, To make the world believe that there is no Plot or Designe against his Majesties Life, and against the established Laws and Religion of the Land, but what is now hatching by the *Presbyterians* and *Republicans*; whilst by this Blinde they still hope to carry on their foul and wicked Designes.

But the Triumph of the wicked is short, and the Joy of the Hypocrite but for a moment. Though his head reach the Clouds, he shall perish in his own Dung, Job 20.5,6,7.

Let the Wickedness of the wicked come to an end; behold he travelleth with Iniquity, and hath conceived Mischief, and brought forth falshood. He hath made a pit, and digg'd it, and is fallen into the ditch he hath made. His mischief shall return upon his own head. For the Sin of their Mouth, and the words of their Lips, let them be taken in their Pride: And for the Cursing and Lying which they speak, Psal. 7. 9, 14, 15, 16. and Psal. 59. 12.

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